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Tenth Report

**COMMUNIST VIOLATIONS OF
THE VIETNAM AND LAOS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS**

(This report covers the week from
20 April through 26 April 1973)

*This memorandum has been prepared jointly by the
Central Intelligence Agency and the Department of Defense*

DIA review(s) completed.

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27 April 1973

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The Key Points

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- Heavy North Vietnamese logistic activity continues, however, all along the Ho Chi Minh trail in southern Laos and in northern South Vietnam.
- We have received further evidence that the Communists are continuing to construct roads which parallel the Ho Chi Minh trail system, but are located wholly inside South Vietnam.
- They are also extending a road toward Sa Huynh in Quang Ngai Province, a town which they tried to capture for a seaport at the time of the ceasefire.
- Combat activity during the week was at a low level in both South Vietnam and Laos.

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The Details

NOTE: This is the tenth in a series of reports detailing recently received evidence of (a) Communist efforts to infiltrate new manpower and military materiel toward and into South Vietnam, and (b) Communist-instigated combat activity in violation of the Vietnam and Laos settlement agreements.

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B. Movement of Military Equipment and Supplies Toward and Into South Vietnam and Laos

6. The reporting period was again characterized by heavy Communist logistical activity in southern North Vietnam, the Laos Panhandle, and northern South Vietnam. Detected vehicle traffic was unusually high in the Laos Panhandle, particularly on Route 99, a main north-south road extending through the central Panhandle. Continuing NVA truck traffic was also seen on the primary feeder routes from southern Laos into the northern regions of South Vietnam. The level of NVA logistic activity within South Vietnam was down somewhat from the previous week.

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Logistic activity in the southern part of North Vietnam continued at the level of the preceding several weeks, and truck traffic moving south through the entry corridors into Laos was also at about the same level as that observed last week.

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Small quantities of supplies also were seen moving from Vinh toward destinations in northern Laos.

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7. The following instances of Communist logistic activity were observed in South Vietnam during the week. Activity observed in South Vietnam probably reflects supplies which have recently entered the country. (The map on the following page shows the roads and route numbers which appear below.)

(a) Evidence of the following Communist road construction activity in South Vietnam was received during the reporting period.

(1) [] a 4-mile extension of motorable road was observed on Route 614 south of the A Shau Valley. Currently, there is an 18-mile gap between the limit of construction on Route 614 and similar road improvement activity occurring on Route 14.

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(2) [] there was an 8-mile segment of newly constructed road extending east from Route 514 to within 5 miles of the coastal town of Sa Huynh in Quang Ngai Province.

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(3) [] a 52-mile segment of cleared road was observed extending south from the Route 19 border crossing in Pleiku Province into central Darlac Province.

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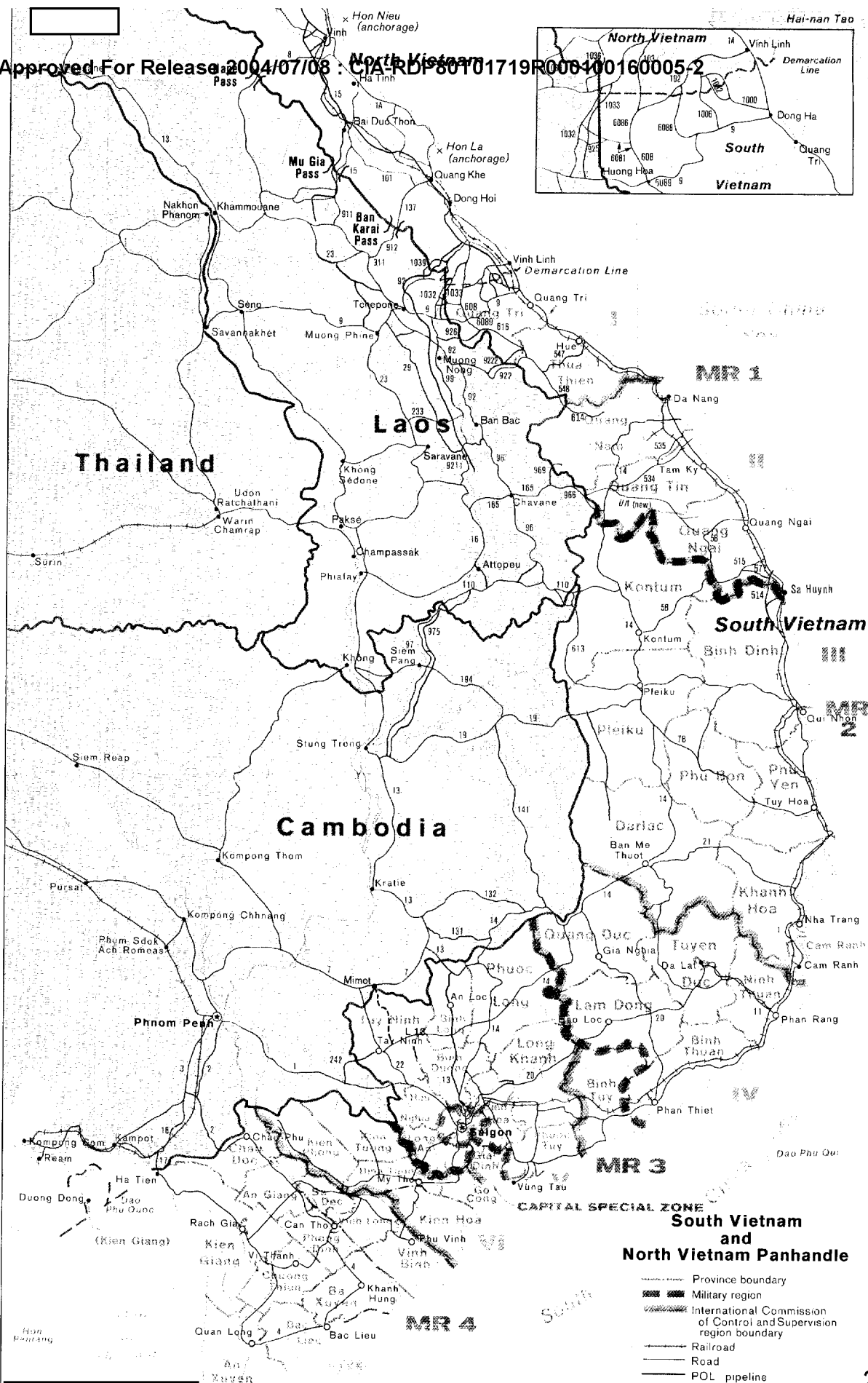
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(c) [] 42 cargo trucks were observed on Route 9 between Dong Ha and the Laos border (23 eastbound, 7 westbound, 12 parked).

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- (d) [] there were 36 cargo vehicles parked on a feeder road running south from Route 9 southwest of Dong Ha.
- (e) [] 13 cargo trucks were observed on Route 9 west of Cam Lo (7 eastbound, 6 parked). Also on that date, 16 trucks were seen on Route 1 north of Dong Ha (1 northbound, 5 southbound, 10 parked), as well as 24 buses parked along the road.

8. During the reporting period the following indications of North Vietnamese logistic activity in southern Laos were noted. Historical precedent would suggest that much of this activity probably involved supplies destined for South Vietnam.

- (a) The following NVA vehicle activity was observed during the reporting period on Route 99 between Muong Nong and the route's intersection with Route 96 southeast of Ban Bac.
- (1) 19 April--180 cargo vehicle (17 northbound, 51 southbound, 112 parked).
 - (2) 20 April--47 cargo vehicles (1 northbound, 42 southbound, 4 parked).
 - (3) 21 April--164 cargo trucks (43 southbound, 67 northbound, 54 parked).
 - (4) 23 April--262 cargo trucks (113 northbound, 91 southbound, 58 parked).
 - (5) 24 April--146 cargo trucks (49 northbound, 17 southbound, 80 parked).
 - (6) 25 April--107 cargo vehicles (25 northbound, 30 southbound, 52 parked).

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- (b) The following activity was observed on Route 92 north of Muong Nong during the reporting period: 82 cargo vehicles on 19 April (47 northbound, 27 southbound, 8 parked); 23 cargo vehicles on 20 April (5 northbound, 18 southbound); 34 cargo trucks on 23 April (20 northbound, 14 southbound); 13 trucks on 24 April (5 northbound, 8 southbound); 83 cargo trucks on 25 April (44 northbound, 39 southbound).
- (c) During the period 20 through 22 April, a number of NVA logistic units operating in the Laos Panhandle adjacent to or in GVN MR 1 handled large shipments of supplies, consisting primarily of ordnance and ammunition.

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- (e) On 21 April 47 cargo vehicles were seen traveling on Route 966 east of Chavane (31 eastbound, 6 westbound, 10 parked). There were also 47 vehicles observed on this route on 24 April (34 eastbound, 7 westbound, 6 parked).
- (f) On 23 April there were 75 cargo trucks on Route 9211 southeast of Saravane (13 northbound, 29 southbound, 33 parked). On 24 April, 82 cargo vehicles were observed on this route (10 northbound, 70 southbound, 2 parked). On 25 April, 32 cargo vehicles were detected on the route (2 northbound, 21 southbound, 9 parked).

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(g) On 24 April 70 eastbound cargo trucks were moving on Route 9 east of Tchepone.

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C. Combat Activity Initiated by Communist Forces In South Vietnam Since the Ceasefire

10. In South Vietnam, the total number of Communist-initiated ceasefire violations reported by the South Vietnamese Armed Forces since 28 January and for the last week (20-26 April) are shown below:

Military Region	Total Since Ceasefire		Last Week (20-26 Apr)	
	Level of Action		Level of Action	
	Major	Minor	Major	Minor
MR 1	817	2,758	39	111
MR 2	196	1,316	10	85
MR 3	290	1,843	14	101
MR 4	444	4,047	26	277
Totals	1,747	9,964	89 (116) <u>1/</u>	574 (633) <u>1/</u>

1/ Denotes totals of previous week.

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11. Some of these violations may have been initiated by GVN forces rather than Communist forces, and it is impossible in all cases to determine the actual instigator. The table above and the chart on the following page, however, do show fairly accurately the trend in the amount of combat that has occurred in South Vietnam since the ceasefire. The fact that a combat incident occurred at a particular time and place is generally reported accurately by the South Vietnamese, even though the question of who started it may not always be treated in objective fashion. In some cases, the Joint Military Commission (GVN/PRG) also reports violations of the ceasefire.

12. The following is a chronological listing of only the most significant "major" Communist violations of the ceasefire in South Vietnam that were reported by the South Vietnamese Armed Forces during the past week.

MILITARY REGION 1

Between 20 and 26 April friendly units west and southwest of Hue received 2,576 rounds in 36 separate attacks-by-fire.

MILITARY REGION 2

On 21 and 24 April, enemy forces attacked elements of two infantry battalions three miles southeast of Bong Son in Binh Dinh Province.

MILITARY REGION 3

Enemy pressure against the Tonle Cham base camp continued at a decreasing level between 21 and 27 April.

MILITARY REGION 4

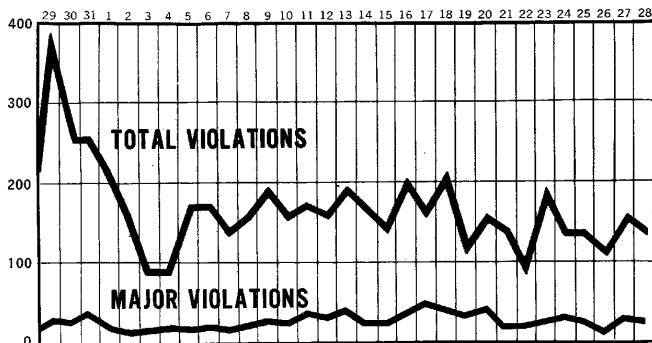
On 19, 20, and 21 April, enemy forces attacked elements of an ARVN infantry regiment on six separate occasions 12 miles northeast of Chau Duc.



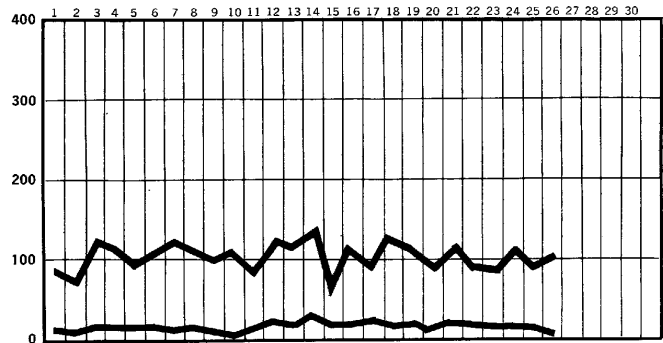
CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS IN SOUTH VIETNAM AS REPORTED BY RVNAF

(28 JANUARY 1973 TO THE PRESENT)

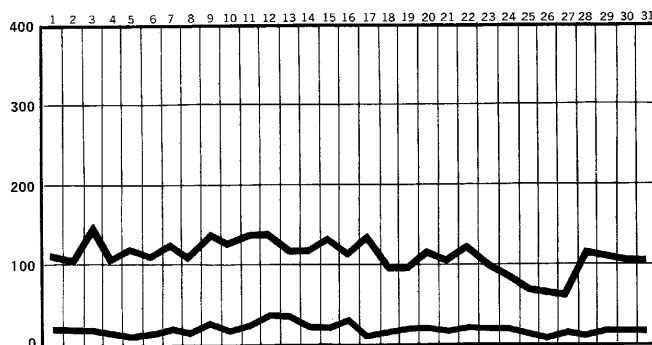
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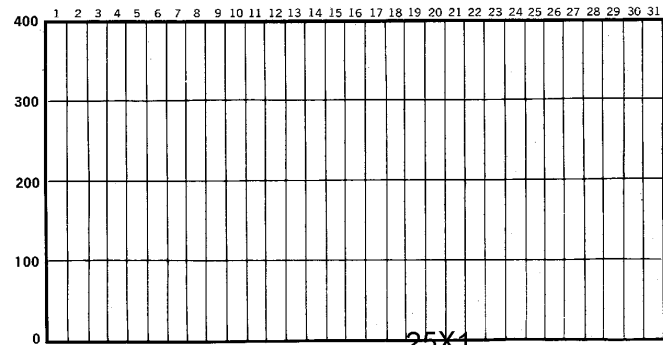
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D. Combat Activity Initiated by Communist Forces in Laos During the Week from 20-26 April

13. Three major incidents were recorded in North Laos during the week. The first involved the capture by Communist forces of three Royal Lao Army (FAR) defensive positions in northwestern Sayaboury Province. The other two involved Communist ground and shelling attacks which caused the abandonment of FAR positions north and southeast of the Plain of Jars. No major military activity was reported in South Laos during the week.

14. Following is a brief account of significant combat incidents which occurred between 20 and 26 April, and which were clearly initiated by Communist forces in violation of the Laos ceasefire agreement:

- (a) On 20 April, a Communist battalion launched simultaneous attacks against three Government positions in northwestern Sayaboury Province. All three positions were lost. (These positions are west of the Mekong River and as close as 5 kilometers to the Thai border.) The Royal Lao Government is currently--as of 26 April--redeploying several FAR units into position to counterattack in this area.
- (b) On 21 April, no significant military activity occurred throughout Laos.
- (c) On 22 April, a Communist battalion attacked and captured the FAR position at Phou Vieng, 20 kilometers northwest of Bouam Long in Military Region II. The attack was supported by over 400 rounds of mortar and artillery fire.
- (d) On 23 April, no significant activity occurred in Laos.
- (e) On 24 April, military activity remained light throughout Laos.

- (f) On 25 April, activity again was at a low level in Laos.
- (g) On 26 April, a Communist ground and shelling attack drove Government forces further from the vicinity of Tha Vieng, southeast of the Plain of Jars. This sector was the scene of recent heavy fighting which triggered a U.S. bombing response.

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